(b) whether the New Telecom Policy will be withheld till this whole mess in the basic services sector, the disputes, are cleared.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, I have made the position clear, so far as the Government is concerned, that we will enforce the terms and conditions of licence. These terms and conditions of licence have been signed before. Therefore, any new policy that will come will not apply retrospectively. Obviously, when the new policy, if any, is framed, a decision will be taken. The legal and constitutional requirements will be looked into; the other requirements, like financial requirements, will also be looked into. These people have been given these licences on the basis of open competitive bids. So, they will have to honour those bids. They have voluntarily signed them. As far as your suggestion about excuses is concerned, I can assure you, no excuse will be allowed to prevail.

About the Telecom Regulatory Authority, as I have said, we will enforce the terms and conditions of the licence and if there is any hurdle from any quarter, we will meet it.

*285. *[The Questions (Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhundar) was absent. For answer vide col. 31 infra.]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 286.

Setting up of Public Sector Restructuring Authority

*286. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has recommended setting up of an independent agency, the Public Sector Restructuring Authority, for restructuring the sick public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (a) and (b) Centre for Industrial and Economic Research (CIER), commissioned by Standing conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) have conducted a study on "Strategies for Action on Sick Central Public Enterprises". The report suggests that a Public Sector Restructuring Authority/Agency (PSRA) may be established with the following broad functions:

Develop guidelines for monitoring incipient sickness;

Provide advice and assistance to sick enterprises;

Sponsor and deal with cases before BIFR;

Organise liquidation proceedings, where necessary;

Organise strategic sale of management of undertakings; and

Organise sale of assets, where necessary.

Suggestion as contained in the report has been noted.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the vital question is whether the Central Government will take effective steps to evaluate the role of the sick public sector, so-called sick public sector, and take up a programme for revival on the basis of merit or whether they will, as a matter of policy, decide to close down the public sector units which they consider to be sick.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, a continuous review of the performance of the public sector and its financial health goes on in Government, and in the last

The Question was actually asked on the Floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

one year, the Department of Public Enterprises, to whom rightly this question pertains, and on whose behalf, I am answering this question, had considered forty-six proposals of various public sector enterprises. Out of these, twenty-one proposals were for capital restructuring and twenty-five were for revival and restructuring of sick and loss-making enterprises. The Government has taken a decision in the case of six capital restructuring proposals and eight proposals for revival and restructuring of sick and loss-making enterprises.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister is giving a reply just like a parrot. The position is not like that. Government is a continuous process. Governance is a continuous process. That we also know. But we are confronted with a specific problem. The specific problem is that the Government had decided to close down a number of public sector units, nine public sector units. Last year, there was a categorical statement to this effect. We had requested the Government to review the situation. A review was called for. But the Government refused that nothing should be done because the Government has no money to do it. Now, we have come to know that the Government is considering revival of a number of public sector units that are situated in West Bengal, and this is being done in response to the suggestion made by a member of the ruling combination. That is quite true. It came in the Press. I would like to know specifically from the Minister whether the Government has decided to review the decision to close down the Heavy Engineering project situated in Durgapur, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass situated in Durgapur, Cycle Corporation situated in West Bengal, RIC situated in West Bengal and a few other units situated outside West Bengal. Since the Government had made a categorical statement to close down and since a number of reports are appearing in the newspapers that the Government is considering the question of revival, whether the hon. Minister will throw some light on the uncertain future of these units.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would first like to compliment the hon. Member for calling me a parrot. At times, parrots are more intelligent than human beings, and they also learn faster than human beings. As far as the other part of the question is concerned, it is true that the Government had taken a decision to close down eight public sector units and we had offered a voluntary retirement scheme, a separate scheme, to the employees of these public sector units. It is also true that the Government has recently reviewed this decision and we have extended the period for which VRS will be valid, by another three months, and we have decided to set up an expert committee which will look into some of these units. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Not all of them? *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, I have got a letter from the PM. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I cannot answer like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. *(Interruptions)* You cannot intervene like this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, there is a section in the House which feels that they only have a commitment to the public sector enterprises, and I challenge this commitment. This is a very false and wrong commitment. We are as committed to the public sector as anyone else. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: You are telling one thing here and telling something else outside. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In the last few months, we have done more for the public sector than anybody else. *(Interruptions)* You are not the only custodian. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not allowed the Minister to reply even. Question Hour is over.